Release of fishing boats of Gujarat fishermen

2137. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any possibility has been explored to release around 432 fishermen of Gujarat, captured by the Pakistan Marine Security Agency (PMSA);

(b) whether Pakistan has no intention of returning 268 fishing boats which is main source of their livelihood; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for not returning the fishing boats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) According to information available, there are 412 Indian fishermen in the custody of Pakistan, out of which 284 are from Gujarat. Government has already confirmed the nationality of 220 fishermen. The nationality of 192 fishermen who were given consular access on July 25-26, 2006 is being processed. The two countries reached an understanding at the Home Secretary level talks on May 30-31, 2006 in Islamabad under which both sides agreed to expedite release of fishermen and civilian prisoners and complete necessaryformalities like grant of consular access and confirmation of national status in the earliest possible time.

(b) and (c) A total number of 287 fishing boats are in Pakistan's custody and Government has been consistently taking up the issue of the release with Pakistan at various levels. However, Pakistan has not agreed to release the fishing boats.

Barrage at Sutlej river

†2138. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that barrage being

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

constructed at Sutlej in Baraj Jada Valley of China and Tibet would result in acute shortage of availability of water in India and availability of water for North India would come under control of China;

(b) whether there is any treaty or mutual understanding between India and China under which China should have taken prior consent of the Government of India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that heavy destruction were caused in Sutlej and Spiti valley of Himachal Pradesh due to breach caused in an artificial lake created at Parechu river in Tibet itself last year;

(d) if so, whether Government have lodged its protest to Government of China in this regard; and

(e) to what extent India is capable of safeguarding its borders or it would again be occupied by China as in the past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Government have noted that the spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in response to a report in an Indian newspaper about China building a barrage on the River Sutlej in Tibet, has reportedly stated as follows: "In recent years, the Chinese side has constructed a small-scale hydropower station on the Langqinzangbu (Sutlej River) at Zhada Country in the Tibet Autonomous Region, to satisfy the daily electricity needs of local population. Chinese Government has always adhered to the basic principle of fair and reasonable development and utilization of trans-boundary rivers. During this process of development and utilization, Chinese Government fully considers the impact on lower reaches. The Ministries of Water Resources of China and India have always maintained good cooperation. In 2005, both sides signed the Memorandum of Understanding on provision of hydrological information during the flood season on the Langqinzangbu/Sutlej River by the Chinese side to the Indian side. This has played a positive role in flood-control safety in downstream areas".

(b) No.

(c) and (d) In the wake of the creation of a landslide dam and barrier lake on the River Parechu in Tibet last year, Government took up the matter in a proactive manner with the Chinese side through diplomatic channels as well as through the border personnel meetings to deal with

the situation. Inter-Ministerial teams were also sent to China to hold discussions with the Chinese side to mitigate the crisis. During the visit of the Chinese Premier to India in April 2005, in response to concerns expressed by the Indian side, the Chinese side agreed to take measures for controlled release of accumulated water of the landslide dam on the River Parechu, as soon as conditions permitted. Following the flash floods in the River Sutlej in June 2005, which led to loss of property in downstream areas, Government asked the Chinese side to confirm the status of the landslide dam on the River Parechu, which was suspected to have collapsed and caused the flash flood. The Chinese side confirmed that the base structure of the landslide dam had been washed away and that with the discharge of accumulated water behind the landslide dam, the artificial lake on the River Parechu no longer posed any threat to the downstream areas.

(e) Government remain vigilant in monitoring the security situation in India's periphery and are taking all necessary steps to safeguard the security and territorial integrity of India.

Resolving border dispute with China

†2139. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to resolve border dispute with China;

(b) whether the Sino-Indian special representatives had reviewed the issue of the boundary dispute between India and China;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made so far to resolve border dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) and (d) In June 2003, India and China each appointed a Special Representative on the boundary queston to explore the framework of a boundary settlement, proceeding from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship. There have been eight meetings of the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.